

TABLES AND DATA SHOWING COMPARISONS OF THE SALARIES OF THE ELECTED OFFICIALS WITH IN-STATE PUBLIC EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

Unfortunately, many people have the mistaken belief that the Legislature sets its own salary and the salaries of the other elected officials. There is also a perception that the elected officials' salaries are too high and are not comparable to other public positions. This may be due in part because the salaries of other public executives are not often in the public eye, making it difficult to make valid comparisons.

The information on these pages is provided to show how the officials' salaries compare with other public positions in the state.

Executive Branch Comparisons

City/County Officials' Comparison with the Governor

City County State Position	Annual Salary
Tacoma City Manager	189,444
Seattle Executive 4	171,420
King County Executive	170,904
Bellevue City Manager	170,316
Clark County Admin	153,852
Governor	150,995
Richland City Manager	150,756
Sammamish Mayor	149,856
Seattle Mayor	148,536

City/County Attorneys Comparison with the Attorney General

City County State Position	Annual Salary
King Co Prosecuting Atty	168,372
Tacoma City Attorney	149,772
Bellevue City Attorney	144,756
Attorney General	137,268

County/City Officials' Comparison with the Executive Branch Officials

City County State	Annual Salary
Tacoma City Manager	189,444
Seattle Executive 4	171,420
King County Executive	170,904
Bellevue City Manager	170,316
Clark County Administrator	153,852
Governor	150,995
Richland City Manager	150,756

City County State	Annual Salary
Sammamish City Manager	149,856
Tacoma Finance Director	149,772
Seattle Mayor	148,536
Kirkland City Manager	146,220
Bellevue Finance Director	144,756
Renton Chief Admin Officer	142,296
Longview City Manager	138,912
Spokane Mayor	138,768
Vancouver City Manager	138,612
Attorney General	137,268
Lacey City Manager	136,320
Shoreline City Manager	135,996
King County Dir Fin & Bus	135,672
Bothell City Manager	135,000
Kennewick City Manager	134,604
Puyallup City Manager	134,400
King County Assessor	134,160
Pasco City Manager	134,076
University Place City Mgr	133,824
Redmond Finance Director	132,444
Snohomish Co Finance Dir	132,072
Spokane Valley City Mgr	131,844
Pierce County Executive	131,784
Spokane Deputy Mayor	131,652
Tukwila City Administrator	130,320
Bainbridge Is City Admin	129,252
Snohomish County Executive	129,036

City County State	Annual Salary
Everett Mayor	128,904
Kent Chief Admin Officer	128,412
Lakewood City Manager	128,124
Everett Chief Admin Asst	127,620
Marysville Admin Officer	127,080
Mercer Island City Manager	127,080
Yakima City Manager	126,732
Olympia City Manager	126,456
Kirkland Finance Director	126,024
Sea-Tac City Manager	126,000
Kenmore City Manager	124,560
Woodinville City Manager	122,772
Centralia City Manger	122,400
Edmonds Finance Director	122,160
Port Angeles City Manager	122,004
Federal Way City Manager	121,404
Covington City Manager	121,116
King County Auditor	120,900
Issaquah Finance Director	120,024
Newcastle City Manager	120,000
Thurston Co Admin Officer	119,712
Whatcom County Executive	116,280
Kitsap County Administrator	112,968
Auburn Mayor	112,344
Clark County Finance Dir	108,144
Supt of Public Instruction	107,978
Com of Public Lands	107,978
King County Treasurer	107,016
Secretary of State	105,811
Treasurer	105,811
Auditor	105,811
Insurance Commissioner	105,811
Lieutenant Governor	78,930

Salaries of the State Agency Heads and Executive Branch Officials

Appointed Agency Head or Elected Official	Plateau	Annual Salary
Transportation	A	162,560
Social & Health Svcs	A	158,000
Financial Management	A	158,000
Governor		150,995
Attorney General	A	137,268
Corrections	A-	137,160
Ecology	A-	137,160
Labor and Industries	A-	137,160
Supt of Public Instr	A-	107,978
Com of Public Lands	A-	107,978
State Patrol	B+	137,160
Employment Security	B+	137,160
Health	B+	137,160
Information Services	B+	137,160
Personnel	B+	137,160
Trade & Economic Dev	B+	137,160
Fish and Wildlife	B+	137,160
Revenue	B+	137,160
Early Learning	B+	135,000
Insurance Com	B+	105,811
Secretary of State	B+	105,811
Treasurer	B+	105,811
Auditor	B+	105,811
Licensing	B	116,840
Retirement Systems	B	116,840
Agriculture	B	116,840
General Administration	B	116,840
Utilities & Trans	B	116,840
Financial Institutions	B	116,840
Veterans' Affairs	B	116,840
Lottery Commission	B	116,840
Parks & Recreation	B	116,840
Health Care Authority	B	116,840
Lieutenant Governor	B	78,930

Notes:

1. The State Committee on Agency Officials' Salaries (SCOAS) establishes a maximum salary for the agency head within six plateaus (A through G). The governor sets the salary within the maximum.
2. Data in this chart shows only the positions in Plateaus A through B.
3. Salaries shown are as of September 2006.
4. On average, Executive Branch officials' salaries lag the appointed officials by **28%**.

Judicial Branch Comparisons

Washington Judges	Annual Salary	Federal Judges	Annual Salary
		Supreme Court Chief Justice	212,100
		Supreme Court Associate Justice	203,000
Supreme Court	145,636	Circuit Court of Appeals	175,000
Court of Appeals	138,636		
Superior Court	131,988	District Court	165,200
District Court	125,672		
		Court of Appeals Armed Svcs	175,000
		Court of Federal Claims	165,200
		Court of International Trade	165,200
		Tax Court	165,200
		Court of Appeals Vet Claims	165,200
		Bankruptcy Judges	151,984
		Magistrate Judges	151,984

In 2004, the Commission contracted with the firm of Owen-Pottier, Human Resource Consultants, to conduct a Willis Point Factor Evaluation of the Judiciary and the Legislature (*2004 Study on Salaries of Legislators and the Judiciary*). That report found the federal bench to be the most appropriate benchmark for the Judiciary. The 2005 Commission took action to begin to bring our judges into alignment with the federal bench. The study is available on our web site at www.salaries.wa.gov

Legislative Comparisons

The *2004 Study on Salaries of Legislators and the Judiciary* found that the state's Exempt Management Service (EMS) provided a logical comparison for the position of legislator. Positions in EMS tend to have significant roles in development of policy just as legislators do and a significant number of EMS positions have regular liaison relationships with the legislature and with the federal government where policy issues are important. The study also confirmed the National Conference of State Legislatures' findings that Washington legislators' work is about 70% of a full-time job. More information about the percentage of time legislators across the country spend on their duties can be found on our website: www.salaries.wa.gov

Exempt Management Service (EMS) Average Band Salaries and Current Legislator Salary

EMS Positions and Legislator	Average Band Salary Annual Legislator Salary
Band 1	40,102
Band 2	64,985
Band 3	82,736
Band 4	94,933
Legislator	36,311

Notes:

1. The 2005 Commission took steps to begin to bring the salaries of legislators into alignment with positions in the EMS.
2. Salaries are as of November 2006
3. EMS positions are full-time; legislator salaries are at 70%

More Comparison Information

Additional comparison tables including national comparisons are found on our web site at www.salaries.wa.gov.

Sources of Data

Association of Washington Cities *2006 Salary and Benefit Survey*, National Center for State Courts, Administrative Office of the Courts, Conference of State Legislatures, and the State Department of Personnel.

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Media Comparison Tables